HIV Risk among Men who have Sex with Men and Women

Damian J. Denson, PhD, MPH
Behavioral Scientist
Prevention Research Branch

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“The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”
Overview of Presentation

- Epidemiological Profile of HIV among Gay, Bisexual and other Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)
- Context of HIV Risk among Men who have Sex with Men and Women (MSMW)
- What is CDC Doing?
- Discussion: What More Can We Do to Reach MSMW?
Epidemiological Profile of HIV among Gay, Bisexual and other MSM

- **HIV Risk among MSM**
  - Estimated 4% of men in the US are gay, bisexual or other MSM (Purcell, 2012)
  - Compared with other transmission groups, MSM accounted for the largest number of new infections in 2010 (CDC, 2013; HIV Surveillance Report, 2012)
  - New infections among MSM increased by 12% from 2008 to 2010 (CDC, 2013)
  - From 2008 to 2010, new HIV infections among young black MSM increased by 20% (CDC, 2013; CDC Vital Signs, 2012)
Epidemiological Profile of HIV among Gay, Bisexual and other MSM

- HIV Risk among Men who have Sex with Men and Women (MSMW)
  - Of particular importance due to:
    - Embody a multitude of identities
      - Heterosexual
      - Bisexual
      - Closeted
      - Discreet
      - “Down Low”
    - Sexual networks expand across heterosexual and MSM populations
    - Could serve as a bridge for HIV transmission, but data inconclusive (Bond, 2009; Millett, 2005; Montgomery, 2003)
Epidemiological Profile of HIV among Gay, Bisexual and other MSM

- Few studies specifically focus on MSMW
  - Usually pooled into MSM category during analyses (Maulsby, 2013)
  - Differing measurement across studies in literature using either sexual identity or sexual behavior
  - Studies on MSMW focus on subpopulations (Maulsby, 2013)
    - Racial/ethnic minorities (Lauby, 2008; Wheeler, 2008)
    - Youth (Flores, 2009; Valleroy, 2000)
    - Low-income (Gorbach, 2009; Williams, 2009; Zule, 2009)
Epidemiological Profile of HIV among Gay, Bisexual and other MSM

- **National HIV case surveillance data assessing MSMW** (Campsmith and Hu, 2013)
  - From 2005-2008, 115,994 men were diagnosed with HIV
  - Of those, 19,285 (16.6%) reported sexual contact with both men and women
    - Primarily black and Latino
    - Percentage reporting MSMW increased with age across race/ethnicity groups

- **National HIV behavioral surveillance data assessing MSMW** (CDC, 2011)
  - In 2008, HIV risk behavior was collected on 8,175 men who reported sex with another man in the past 12 months
  - Of those, 1,109 (14%) reported female sex partners in the past 12 months as well
  - 63% of vaginal or anal sex with female partners was unprotected
Epidemiological Profile of HIV among Gay, Bisexual and other MSM

- Other studies of MSMW indicate that:
  - 14-20% of MSMW report unprotected sex with both men and women (Maulsby, 2013; Valleroy, 2000; Weatherburn, 1998)
  - MSMW have fewer female partners than male partners (McKirnan, 1995; Siegel, 2008; Wold, 1998)
  - MSMW with a main female partner report less unprotected anal intercourse with men (Maulsby, 2013)
Epidemiological Profile of HIV among Gay, Bisexual and other MSM

- MSMW are similar to MSM in terms of:
  - Number of recent male partners (Knight, 2007; Maulsby, 2013)
  - Estimates of unprotected insertive anal intercourse (Knight, 2007; Williams, 2009)
  - Likelihood to use condoms (Williams, 2009)
  - Rates of substance use (Maulsby, 2013)
Epidemiological Profile of HIV among Gay, Bisexual and other MSM

- **MSMW** are dissimilar to MSM in terms of:
  - Lower rates of:
    - HIV prevalence (Harawa, 2013; Montgomery, 2003; Wheeler 2008)
    - Unprotected anal intercourse with male partners (Flores, 2009)
  - Less likely to:
    - Report unprotected receptive anal sex (Knight, 2007; Maulsby, 2013; Wheeler, 2008; Zule, 2009)
    - Test for HIV (Flores, 2009; Jeffries, 2010)
    - Be exposed to HIV Prevention (Flores, 2009)
  - More likely to:
    - Engage in sex work and IDU (Goldbaum, 1998; Maulsby, 2013; Wheeler, 2008)
    - Report concurrent sex partners (Operario, 2011; Maulsby, 2013; Siegal, 2008)
    - Have undiagnosed HIV (Young, 2009)
Context of HIV Risk among MSMW

- **High prevalence of HIV (CDC, 2013)**
  - Particularly in racial/ethnic minority communities
  - Increasing risk as one gets older
  - Young MSM partnering with older MSM (higher prevalence) increases risk

- **Lack of knowledge about HIV status (CDC, 2013)**
  - Unknowingly transmit virus
  - False assumptions regarding partner’s HIV status
  - Misinformation regarding testing, frequency, results, viral loads
Context of HIV Risk among MSMW

- **Complacency about risk (CDC, 2013)**
  - Sexual risks still account for most HIV infections in MSM
  - Poor maintenance of safer sex behaviors over time
  - Underestimation of personal risks

- **Very few behavioral interventions targeting MSMW**
  - Men of African American Legacy Empowering Self (MAALES) (Harawa, 2013; Williams, 2009)

- **Social discrimination and cultural issues**
  - Poverty and lack of access to health care
  - Gender role conflict (Bingham, 2013; Operario, 2011)
  - Minority Stress Model (Meyer, 1995)
    - Homophobia/biphobia (internalized and experienced)
    - Stigma (internalized and experienced)
    - Racism
Context of Risk among MSMW

How do societal and structural approaches impact HIV risk?

- Recent Supreme Court decisions?
- Mainstream media (Internet, TV, Film, Music)?
  - NOH8 marriage equality campaign in response to California Proposition 8
  - Human Rights Campaign marriage equality efforts
  - Logo Network, i.e. ‘Noah’s Arc’
  - Frank Ocean, hip hop/R&B artist
  - “Modern Family,” “Glee”
  - Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, “Same Love”
What is CDC doing?

- Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention’s (DHAP) High-Impact HIV Prevention approach prioritizes interventions that are
  - Cost-effective at reducing overall HIV infections
  - Practical to implement at full-scale
  - Target highest-risk populations
  - Combined for specific populations

- Expanded HIV Testing Initiatives target:
  - MSM
  - African Americans
  - Latinos
What is CDC doing?

- Development and Testing of HIV Prevention Interventions Targeting Black Bisexually Active Men (PS08-0002)
  - Funded 3 researchers to develop and test efficacy of novel HIV behavioral interventions
  - Data collection complete and efficacy analyses ongoing
  - Modified chain referral sampling was effective at recruitment (Joseph, 2012)

- HIV Prevention Projects for Young Men of Color Who Have Sex with Men and for their Partners (PS11-1113)
  - Funded 34 community-based organizations in 19 states and Puerto Rico in 2011
  - Prioritized most disproportionately affected populations
  - Included partners regardless of gender or race/ethnicity
What is CDC doing?

- **Evaluated recruitment approaches for HIV testing among black MSM**
  - **Alternate Venue Testing**
    - HIV testing at venues frequented by MSM (Baytop – Abt Poster; Ellen, 2013; Halkitis, 2011)
      - NYC: 6.3% seropositivity (n=400)
      - Baltimore: 10.9% seropositivity (n=218)
      - DC: seropositivity not reported by strategy (n=175)
  - **Social Networking Strategies**
    - HIV-positive or high-risk negative black MSM recruit their peers (Baytop – Abt Poster; Ellen, 2013; Halkitis, 2011)
      - NYC: 19.3% seropositivity (n=109)
      - Baltimore: 0% seropositivity (n=22)
      - DC: 11% seropositivity (n=149)
  - **Partner Counseling and Referral Services** (Halkitis, 2011)
    - NYC: 14.3% seropositivity (n=49)
    - Baltimore: 0% seropositivity (n=2)
    - DC: seropositivity not reported by strategy (n=152)
What is CDC doing?

Act Against AIDS: Targeted health communication campaigns for African Americans and Latinos
What more can we do to reach MSMW?  
[Discussion]
Works Cited


• CDC. “Vital Signs: HIV Infection, Testing, and Risk Behaviors Among Youths — United States” http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6147a5.htm?s_cid=mm6147a5_w. Published November 2012.


Works Cited


